

FACILITIES HISTORICAL REPORT
RADFORD ORDNANCE WORKS
QUARTER JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1945

RG 156 CHIEF OF ORDNANCE
Entry 646 Histories of Ordnance Facilities and Activities, 1940-1945
Box A148 Radford Ordnance Works

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SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE PLANT HISTORY

OF THE

RADFORD ORDNANCE WORKS

RADFORD, VIRGINIA

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Compiled under the direction of Major John K. Rouleau, Commanding Officer, Radford Ordnance Works, Radford, Virginia, and the New River Ordnance Plant, Pulaski, Virginia, in compliance with War Department, Ordnance Department Order No. 337, dated 21 September 1942, and Administration Circular No. 286, dated 9 December 1943 from Field Director of Ammunition Plants, St. Louis, Missouri, by Ernest G. Baldwin, Historian for the Radford Ordnance Works and the New River Ordnance Plant.

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July - August - September

1945

ORIGINAL

2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		<u>Page</u>
SCHEDULE I	<u>Ordinance Administration</u>	
	1. Key Personnel Changes	4
SCHEDULE II	<u>Contractor Administration</u>	
	1. Changes in Contract	6
	2. Construction	17
SCHEDULE III	<u>Production</u>	
	1. Production Progress	19
SCHEDULE IV	<u>Statistical Data</u>	
	1. Personnel Data	45
	2. Production Volume	46
	3. Production Costs (Schedule 10)	50
	4. Plant Budget Estimate (Schedule 15)	53
SCHEDULE V	<u>Special</u>	
	1. General Notes	57
	2. Major Changes in Buildings and Other Facilities	58
	3. Organization Changes	59
	4. Orders and Memorandums	61

ORIGINAL

5

SCHEDULE II

CONTRACTOR ADMINISTRATION

<u>Part</u>		<u>Page</u>
1.	Changes in Contract	6
2.	Construction	17

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Due to change in identification system of modifications to contracts, this Change Order is numbered 51, there having been executed 13 Supplements and 37 Change Orders

ORIGINAL 12
EM Johnston/srp
Change Order No. 51
Contract W-ORD-462
DA-W-ORD-26, as amended

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ORDNANCE
FIELD DIRECTOR AMMUNITION PLANTS
St. Louis 8, Missouri

13 July 1945

Hercules Powder Company
Wilmington, Delaware

Attention: Mr. W. R. Ellis

Re: Operation of Facilities at the Site of the
New River Ordnance Plant, under Contract
W-ORD-462 DA-W-ORD-26, for the Production
of Flash Reducers

Gentlemen:

As formal confirmation of verbal advice heretofore given to Hercules Powder Company by the Office of the Field Director of Ammunition, the Contractor is hereby authorized and directed to operate present facilities located at the New River Ordnance Plant for the following:

- (a) The production of flash reducers T2 for 155 mm propelling charges for howitzer M1, in such amounts as may be directed from time to time by the Contracting Officer and as are within the capacity of the Plant; and
- (b) The production of flash reducers T3 for 8" propelling charges for howitzer M1, in such amounts as may be directed from time to time by the Contracting Officer and as are within the capacity of the Plant; and
- (c) The production of flash reducers T4 for 105 mm propelling charges for howitzer M2, in such amounts as may be directed from time to time by the Contracting Officer and as are within the capacity of the Plant; and
- (d) All production performed pursuant to the above authorizations shall be in conformance with drawings and specifications to be furnished to the Contractor by the Government.

ORIGINAL

13

TO: Hercules Powder Company

13 July 1945

It is impossible at this time to estimate the total cost of the work covered by this Change Order. However, it is expressly understood and agreed that the Contractor will be reimbursed for all costs and expenses incurred by it, in connection with the work hereby authorized, in accordance with the applicable provisions of Contract W-ORD-462 DA-W-ORD-26, as amended, and it is further understood and agreed that the work hereunder is made a part of the work under said Contract, as amended. Any fixed fees for such work will be the subject of negotiations at a later date. It is requested that this office be furnished with an estimate of the cost of the work as promptly as possible in order that a formal supplemental agreement covering such work may be negotiated at an early date.

Except as hereby changed, all the terms and conditions of Contract W-ORD-462 DA-W-ORD-26, as amended, shall remain in full force and effect and shall apply with equal force and effect in the changes made in this Change Order No. 51.

This letter is issued pursuant to the provisions of paragraph a of Section 1 of Article VIII-A, Title VIII of Contract W-ORD-462 DA-W-ORD-26, as amended.

Very truly yours,

For the Chief of Ordnance:

/s/ John K. Willard
JOHN K. WILLARD
Lt. Col., Ordnance Department HEE
Executive Officer
Field Director Ammunition Plants
Contracting Officer appointed by
the Chief of Ordnance

Receipt is hereby acknowledged of the above Change Order No. 51 to Contract W-ORD-462 DA-W-ORD-26, dated August 16, 1940, as amended, and the Contractor hereby accepts the terms and conditions thereof.

Date July 17, 1945

HERCULES POWDER COMPANY
(Contractor)

BY/s/ L. N. Bent
Vice President

WRE
JHTMcC

ORIGINAL

15

Due to change in identification system of modifications to contracts this Change Order is numbered 53 there having been executed 13 Supplements and 39 Change Orders

EMJohnston/srp
Date 6 August, 1945
Change Order No. 53
Contract W-ORD-462
DA-W-ORD-26, as amended

WAR DEPARTMENT - ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT
CHANGE ORDER
TO
COST-PLUS-A-FIXED-FEE
CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT AND OPERATION CONTRACT

CONTRACTOR: HERCULES POWDER COMPANY, Wilmington, Delaware

NAME AND LOCATION OF PLANT: Radford Ordnance Works, Radford, Virginia

As formal confirmation of instructions heretofore given to the Contractor from time to time by the office of the Field Director of Ammunition Plants, the Contractor is hereby authorized and directed to perform on facilities already available at the New River Ordnance Plant all work and services necessary for the manufacture of the items enumerated below, and any such work performed prior to the date of this Change Order is hereby ratified and approved:

- (1) 4,000 Bag Cartridge Base Zone 3 for 155 mm Howitzer M4A1 Charge with Loaded Igniter. (TT 35783 dated 10 May 1945);
- (2) 3,000 Bag Cartridge Empty Increment Zone 4 for 155 mm Howitzer M4A1 Charge. (TT 38570 dated 24 May 1945);
- (3) 500 sets, each consisting of Empty Cartridge Bag Base and 3 Increments for 10" mortar shell. (TT 38768 dated 25 May 1945);
- (4) 500 Ignition Charge Bags Pc. Mk. 71-12-24D loaded with Grade A-4 Black Powder (TT 38768 dated 25 May 1945, as amplified by letter of 14 July 1945 from the Commanding Officer, File SPOCB 471.87/170-118);
- (5) 400 Empty Cartridge Bags, Increment Charge 3, with Loaded Igniter and 400 Empty Cartridge Bags, Increment Charge 5, both for 155mm Howitzer M1 Charge M4A1 (messageform SPOLY 457/54008 dated 30 June 1945, as amended by TT 44342 dated 5 July 1945).

It is expressly understood and agreed that the foregoing is deemed to be a part of the work under Contract W-ORD-462 DA-W-ORD26, as amended, and that the performance of said work will be done under and in accordance with the applicable provisions thereof, including without limiting the generality of the foregoing, those provisions which deal with reimbursement.

ORIGINAL

16

This Change Order involves a minor increase in the cost of the work however, the Contractor is willing to undertake the work authorized by this Change Order without any increase in the amount of the fixed-fee. This Change Order, therefore, involves no increase or decrease in the fixed-fees provided for in said Contract. No change in time required for performance is involved.

Except as hereby changed all the terms and conditions of said Contract, as amended, shall remain in full force and effect and shall apply with equal force and effect in carrying out the provisions of this Change Order No. 53.

The additional instructions herein issued and the work herein authorized are ordered pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (a) of Section 1 of Article VIII-A of Title VIII of the aforesaid Contract, as amended.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

/s/ John K. Willard

JOHN K. WILLARD

Lt. Col., Ordnance Department

EMJ

Executive Officer

Field Director Ammunition Plants

Contracting Officer appointed by
the Chief of Ordnance

Receipt is hereby acknowledged of the above Change Order No. 53 to Contract W-ORD-462 DA-W-ORD-26, dated August 16, 1940, as amended, and the Contractor hereby accepts the terms and conditions thereof.

Date August 10, 1945

HERCULES POWDER COMPANY

(Contractor)

W.R.E.

JHTMcC

By/s/ L. N. Bent

L. N. Bent, Vice President

ORIGINAL

2. Construction

Construction work at the New River Ordnance Plant and the Radford Ordnance Works was terminated on 14 August 1945. All work was stopped on orders from the Field Director of Ammunition Plants, this being occasioned by the unconditional surrender of the Japanese. This construction work consisted of eight new Rolled Powder Lines and other necessary buildings which were listed in the preceding supplement to this history.

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FACILITIES HISTORICAL REPORT
RADFORD ORDNANCE WORKS
QUARTER JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1945

Prepared by
HERCULES POWDER COMPANY
A. VAN BEEK, MANAGER

Submitted to
CAPTAIN GERALD M. KINNE', ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT
(ACTING) COMMANDING OFFICER

RADFORD ORDNANCE WORKS
RADFORD, VIRGINIA
OCTOBER 31, 1945

ORIGINAL

QUARTERLY HISTORICAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
SCHEDULE I - <u>Ordnance Administration</u>	
1. Army Officers on Duty and Functions	1
SCHEDULE II - <u>Contractor Administration</u>	
1. Key Personnel	2
2. Changes in Contract	2
3. Industrial Relations:	
a. Labor Market	5
b. Labor Relations	5
c. Training of Employees	7
d. Housing and Employee Transportation to Plant	8
e. Important Changes in Wages and Salaries	9
f. Morale Problems	9
SCHEDULE III - <u>Production</u>	
1. Production Schedules	12
2. Production Methods, Practices, and Techniques	12
3. Production Progress	15
4. Troubles and Difficulties	15
5. Inspection Problems and Practices	17
6. Industrial Safety	18

ORIGINAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

	<u>Page</u>
SCHEDULE IV - <u>Statistical Data</u>	
1. Production Volume and Cost	24
2. Plant Budget Estimate	24
3. Lost-time Injury Tabulation	24
4. Personnel Count	24
SCHEDULE V - <u>Construction</u>	
1. Change Orders	39
2. General	39
SCHEDULE VI - <u>Special</u>	
1. General	40

ORIGINAL

2

SCHEDULE II

Contractor Administration

1. Key Personnel

Schedule No. 5, showing key personnel as of September 30, 1945, may be found on pages 10 and 11.

2. Changes in Contract W-ORD-462, DA-W-ORD-26

Change Order No. 48 to Contract W-ORD-462, dated July 6, 1945, and accepted by the contractor July 11, 1945, was issued to authorize and direct the contractor to perform, on facilities presently available at the Radford Ordnance Works, all work and services necessary for the manufacture of an additional ten thousand (10,000) pounds of an experimental material designated as 65-35 cyclotol by the Slurry Method, in accordance with specifications furnished by the Ordnance Department. RDX and TNT necessary in the manufacture of said experimental material was furnished to the contractor by the Government.

Change Order No. 49 to Contract W-ORD-462, dated July 7, 1945, and accepted by the contractor August 10, 1945, was issued to authorize and direct the contractor to perform, on facilities already available at the New River Ordnance Plant, all work and services in connection with the manufacture of 995 fin assemblies, complete, for Shell HE, T3, 10" Mortar T29 or any of its components parts which may be scheduled by the Office of the Field Director of Ammunition Plants for performance at the New River Ordnance Plant, including without limitation 57,100 of Ignition Charges, T5, Assembly-Pc.Mk. 71-12-24A; 57,100 of Propelling Charge T3-Base; and three increments - for the 10" Mortar T29 Assembly

ORIGINAL

3

Change Order No. 50 to Contract W-ORD-462, dated July 12, 1945, and accepted by the contractor on July 17, 1945, was issued to authorize and direct the contractor to perform all work and services necessary for the manufacture and shipment of PETN as such from the Radford Ordnance Works in such amounts, within the capacity of said plant and consistent with the existing schedules for production of pentolite at that plant, as may be directed from time to time by the contracting officer in accordance with specifications furnished by the Ordnance Department. The cost of manufacturing said PETN was estimated at thirty-four and ninety-seven one hundredths cents (\$0.3497) per pound.

Change Order No. 51 to Contract W-ORD-462, dated July 13, 1945, and accepted by the contractor on July 17, 1945, was issued to authorize and direct the contractor to operate present facilities at the New River Ordnance Plant for the following:

- (a) The production of Flash Reducers T2 for 155MM Propelling Charges for Howitzer M1, in such amounts as may be directed from time to time by the contracting officer and as are within the capacity of the plant;
- (b) The production of Flash Reducers T3 for 8" Propelling Charges for Howitzer M1, in such amounts as may be directed from time to time by the contracting officer and as are within the capacity of the plant;
- (c) The production of Flash Reducers T4 for 105MM Propelling Charges for Howitzer M2, in such amounts as may be directed from time to time by the contracting officer and as are within the capacity of the plant;

ORIGINAL

4

- (d) All production performed pursuant to the above authorizations shall be in conformance with drawings and specifications to be furnished to the contractor by the Government.

Change Order No. 52 to Contract W-ORD-462, dated July 24, 1945, and accepted by the contractor July 31, 1945, was issued to authorize (but not obligate) the contractor, when requested or authorized by the contracting officer, to extend technical aid and any assistance (including the furnishing of necessary equipment, materials, and work forces) in connection with the moving, salvage, demolition, neutralization, or other disposition of Government-owned ammunition, explosives, or dangerous chemicals being transported or stored by a carrier.

Change Order No. 53 to Contract W-ORD-462, dated August 6, 1945, and accepted by the contractor August 10, 1945, was issued to authorize and direct the contractor to perform on facilities already available at the New River Ordnance Plant all work and services necessary for the manufacture of the items enumerated below:

- (1) 4,000 Bag Cartridges, Base Zone 3, for 155MM Howitzer M4A1 Charge with loaded igniter. (TT35783, dated May 10, 1945);
- (2) 3,000 Bag Cartridges, Empty Increment Zone 4, for 155MM Howitzer M4A1 Charge. (TT38570, dated May 24, 1945);
- (3) 500 sets, each consisting of empty cartridge bag base and 3 increments, for 10" mortar shells. (TT38768, dated May 25, 1945);
- (4) 500 Ignition Charge Bags, Pc.Mk. 71-12-24D, loaded with Grade A-4 Black Powder. (TT38768, dated May 25, 1945, as amplified by letter of July 14, 1945, from the commanding officer, File SPOCB 471. 87/170-118);

ORIGINAL

5

- (5) 400 Empty Cartridge Bags, Increment Charge 3, with loaded igniter; and 400 Empty Cartridge Bags, Increment Charge 5, both for 155MM Howitzer M1 Charge M4A1. (Message Form SPOLY 457/54008, dated June 30, 1945, as amended by TT44342, dated July 5, 1945).

Notice of termination of Contract W-ORD-462, dated August 29, 1945, and accepted by the contractor September 4, 1945, was issued to confirm previous notice that work under Contract No. W-ORD-462 was terminated for the convenience of the Government. Such termination was effective as of August 29, 1945. The contractor was requested to furnish promptly an estimate of the cost of the work to be done as a result of this termination. The fixed-fee for the contractor's services rendered as a result of this notice of termination will be negotiated after receipt of said estimate.

3. Industrial Relations

a. Labor Market

Because of production schedules at the Radford Ordnance Works, there was practically no demand for new employees at the Radford Plant. Only a few people were employed as replacements during the quarter. The last labor recruiter, stationed in Roanoke, Virginia, was called in the first of August, 1945, and all advertising still in effect was cancelled after V-J Day. As of September 30, 1945, all Powder Production Operations had ceased, and the hourly personnel had been reduced to 1,433.

b. Labor Relations

The collective bargaining agreement between the American Federation of Labor and affiliated unions, representing the bargaining unit, and the contractor, was approved by the labor branch of the Ordnance Department as of